REMARKS:

The Examiner objected to the Abstract because it contained more than 150 words. A substitute Abstract is provided that contains only 137 words.

Lexicographical Statement for the Record

Applicant's use of the words "first" and "second" in claims 20 and 21 (and elsewhere in the withdrawn claims) are meant to differentiate the elements of one linked report with the elements of another linked report. The use of the terms "first" and "second" is not meant to define an explicit order. For example, "first query language instruction" is not restricted to the "first" line of code of a query statement. Nor is• "second query language instruction" restricted to the "second" line (or any singular line) of code in a query statement. The words "first" and "second" in this context are used merely as labels to distinguish a query language instruction in a higher-level ("first") report object from a query language instruction in a linked subordinate or drill-down ("second") report object. The "first query language instruction" may appear anywhere within the "first" report object, and may encompass a large block of query code commands. Moreover, the "first [report] object" may itself be subordinate to a yet higher-level report object.

Status of claims:

Claims 1-32 are pending. Claims 1-19 and 28-32 have been withdrawn pursuant to the restriction requirement. In her December 15, 2004, Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 20-21 as being anticipated by Tabb et al. (USPN 5,603,025), one of the references that Applicant IDS'd and discusses in the background of the specification. The Examiner also rejected claims 22, 24, 26, and 27 as being anticipated by Bakalash et

al. (US 2002/0184187), a reference that was published on Dec. 5, 2002. The Examiner also rejected claim 23 as obvious over Bakalash et al. in view of Tabb, and rejected claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Bakalash et al.

In reviewing claim 20, Applicant realized a typographical error. The second paragraph referred to "a first query language statement," but subsequent paragraphs referred to a "first query language instruction." No distinction between "query language statement" and "query language instruction" was intended. Therefore, second paragraph of claim 20 has been amended to consistently recite "first query language instruction" throughout the claim. Other changes have been made to simplify and eliminate unnecessary limitations in claim 20.

Furthermore, Applicant has amended claim 20 to recite that the linking instruction is part of the query language instruction in the first report object. No new matter has been added because this is illustrated in Fig. 5, which depicts a report object 500 that includes a query language instruction 550. Query language instruction 550 includes a line 564 that specifies a linking relationship. The linking instruction 564 is part of the query 550.

Applicant also noted and corrected a typographical error in claim 22. The word "the" preceding "characteristics" was removed because there was no antecedent basis for "the characteristics." And the limitation that the database be a "relational" database was removed from both claims 20 and 22.

Remarks on the Rejection of Claims 20-21

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 20-21 over Tabb. It is well established that "[f]or a prior art reference to anticipate in terms of 35 U.S.C. § 102,

every element of the claimed invention must be identically shown in a single reference."

In re Bond, 910 F.2d 831, 832 (Fed. Cir. 1990) (quoting *Diversitech Corp. v. Century Steps, Inc.*, 850 F.2d 675, 677 (Fed. Cir. 1988)). Tabb does not teach or disclose every element and limitation of the claimed invention.

Specifically, Tabb does not teach a "first object" that (1) defines characteristics of a first report, *and* (2) specifies a first report template to which to bind a data set to be retrieved from a database, *and which* (3) includes a first query language instruction operable to retrieve the data set from the database, *and where* (4) the query language instruction includes a linking instruction that specifies a linking relationship between at least a portion of the first data set and the second report.

Instead, Tabb suggests that each report that is generated has some underlying RTF code 700 that makes the report a hypertext document. *Compare* Figs. 6B and 7A; *see* Col. 21, lines 25-36. The underlying hypertext document includes "hidden identifiers" 710 that link the report to other drill-down reports. But nothing in Tabb et al. suggests that underlying RTF code 700 includes a query language statement. Tabb et al. does discuss an "underlying data model for each report" on col. 21, lines 51-52. Even assuming (without admitting) that the underlying data model was a report object of some kind that included a query language instruction,[1] there is no indication that the underlying RTF code 700 that had the linking instruction was part of a query language statement in an underlying data model. To the best of Applicant's ability to understand the Tabb

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[1] Tabb does not say whether the underlying data model includes a query. Tabb says very little in the detailed description about how queries are incorporated or represented in its system. *See* Col. 3, lines 27-28 ("The system provides a set of objects including table,

reference, Tabb simply teaches that the disclosed system automatically identifies linking relationships between database tables and/or reports and inserts "hidden identifiers" 710 into the underlying RTF code 700 of the reports in order provide drill-down capabilities. *See* Col. 18, line 45 – Col. 22, line 43. Tabb simply does not teach, disclose, or even remotely suggest that the linking instruction is included within a query statement or instruction block that is used to retrieve the data set from the database.[2]

The distinctions between Applicant's drill-down system and method and that disclosed in Tabb are not trivial. As noted in the background of the specification, Tabb describes a system that automatically recognizes related information by looking for primary keys that uniquely identify records in a given table. The system also automatically generates hyperlinked reports, as illustrated by FIGS. 6A through 6E of the patent, that enable an end-user to drill down to increasing levels of detail. But Tabb's automation and ease of use comes at the expense of the customer's ability to customize relationships between reports.

The invention of claims 20-21, by contrast, allows the customer to explicitly define the drill-down relationships between a higher-level report and one or more subordinate reports using the same query language syntax that is used to retrieve the data that goes into the report. As noted in the specification, this also imparts an advantage over typical drilldown reporting tools that require the customer to write additional code

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form, report, query, script, and library objects."). Figs. 8A-8E illustrate some of the relationships between database tables that could be defined by a query statement.

[2] Also, Figs. 3C-E (cited by the Examiner) do not show any query statement or linking instruction.

blocks in languages other than in the database query language ("DQL") used to interrogate the database, in order to link one report to another.

Applicant's invention, in short, satisfies the need for a system for specifying drill-down relationships between reports that is neither overly complex (e.g., systems that require multilingual implementation) nor overly restrictive (e.g., systems that automatically define the linking relationships).

In light of the above arguments, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 20-21 be withdrawn and the claims passed to issue.

Remarks on the Rejection of Claims 22, 24, and 26-27

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 22, 24, and 26-27 as anticipated by Bakalash. It is well established that "[f]or a prior art reference to anticipate in terms of 35 U.S.C. § 102, every element of the claimed invention must be identically shown in a single reference." *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 832 (Fed. Cir. 1990) (quoting *Diversitech Corp. v. Century Steps, Inc.*, 850 F.2d 675, 677 (Fed. Cir. 1988)). Bakalash does not teach or disclose every element and limitation of the claimed invention.

The Examiner rightly observed that Bakalash discloses queries (e.g., paragraphs 0008-0012, 0057-0058). But Bakalash does not disclose that the queries are part of a report pattern object. The claim requires a report pattern object that (1) defines characteristics of a report, *and which* (2) includes a query language instruction operable to retrieve the data set from a database. Bakalash does not disclose this.

The Examiner also rightly observed that Bakalash mentions a "drill-down" feature (e.g., paragraphs 0074, 0231) and another paragraph (0235) mentions "metadata." But

Bakalash does not disclose "drill-down-report-specifying metadata in [any] result set" retrieved by a database query.

The Examiner also rightly observed that Bakalash mentions that drill down results "are retrieved on demand and returned to the user" (e.g., paragraph 0233). But Bakalash does not explain how this is done. It does not teach or suggest that drill down results are retrieved by mapping a user's report element selection to metadata in the result set that was used to generate the report the user is interacting with. Bakalash simply fails to disclose or describe "an event handling module operable to retrieve, in response to user requests, report pattern objects corresponding to drill-down reports specified in the metadata of the result set."

With respect to claim 24, the Examiner also rightly observed that Bakalash mentions a "query handler and integrated MDD Aggregation Module" that "operate to provide for dramatically improved query response times for data aggregation operations and drill-downs" (paragraph 231). But Bakalash does not teach or describe passing and incorporating parameters into the query language expressions of report pattern objects retrieved in response to use requests for drill-down reports. (For context on this claimed feature, please see paragraphs 77, 84-85 of the Applicant's specification).

With respect to claim 26, Applicant would note it depends from claim 25. The Examiner acknowledged that claim 25 was not anticipated. Therefore, claim 26 cannot possibly be anticipated.

With respect to each of claims 24 and 26-27, Applicant argues that these are allowable for the same reasons that base claim 22 is allowable.

In light of the above arguments, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection

of claims 22, 24, and 26-27 be withdrawn and the claims passed to issue.

Remarks on the Rejection of Claims 23 and 25

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 23 as obvious over

Bakalash in view of Tabb and of claim 25 as obvious over Bakalash. It is well

established that "[t]o establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the

claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art." MPEP § 2143.03 (citing

In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 985 (CCPA 1974)). Neither Bakalash nor Tabb disclose:

- a report pattern object that (1) defines characteristics of a report, *and which* (2) includes a query language instruction operable to retrieve the data set from a database;
- drill-down-report-specifying metadata in any result set retrieved by a database query; *or*
- an event handling module operable to retrieve, in response to user requests, report pattern objects corresponding to drill-down reports *specified in the metadata of the result set.*

As stated in *In re Royka*, "the essence of [Applicant's] invention, as set forth in claim

[22], is still missing notwithstanding the addition of the [Tabb] reference and [there is]

nothing in the combinations of references which would have made the invention obvious

to one of ordinary skill in the art." *Id.* at 985.

Furthermore, there is no motivation for combining Tabb with Bakalash. "When

an obviousness determination is based on multiple prior art references, there must be a

showing of some 'teaching, suggestion, or reason' to combine the references." *Winner*

Int'l Royalty Corp. v. Wang, 202 F.3d 1340, 1348 (Fed. Cir. 2000). Indeed, "a showing

of a suggestion, teaching, or motivation to combine the prior art references is an

'essential evidentiary component of an obviousness holding.'" *Brown & Williamson*

Tobacco Corp. v. Philip Morris, Inc., 56 U.S.P.Q.2d 1456, 1459 (Fed. Cir. 2000). Moreover, "[t]his showing must be clear and particular . . . ." *Id.*
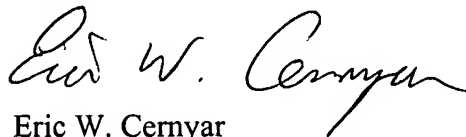
Significantly, "[t]he absence of such a suggestion to combine is dispositive in an obviousness determination." *Gambro Lundia AB v. Baxter Healthcare Corp.*, 110 F.3d 1573, 1578-79 (Fed. Cir. 1997) (emphasis added). The Federal Circuit has repeatedly demanded a "rigorous application of the requirement for a showing of the teaching or motivation to combine prior art references" as an antidote to "the subtle but powerful attraction of a hindsight-based obviousness analysis." *In re Dembiczak*, 175 F.3d 994, 999 (Fed. Cir. 1999). "Actual evidence" of a suggestion, teaching, or motivation to combine is required. *Id.* "Broad conclusory statements regarding the teaching of multiple references, standing alone, are not 'evidence.'" *Id.*

In light of the above arguments, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 23 and 25 be withdrawn and the claims passed to issue.

Conclusion:

No fees are believed to be required for this response. The Commissioner is, however, authorized to charge any fees that may be required for this response to Eric W. Cernyar, P.C.'s Deposit Account No. 502906.

Respectfully submitted,

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